Child labour and protection of children's rights

182. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of 150 children participating in the third National Bal Mitra Mahapanchayata at Viratnagar in Rajasthan have demanded an end to child labour and protection of their rights to get education and equal opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action Government propose to take to address these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Government is not aware of such Bal Mitra Mahapanchayata.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The problem of child labour requires to be dealt through sustained efforts and the Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child labour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and a project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the NCLP Scheme, the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools. They are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health check up in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. As of now, the scheme is being implemented in 250 districts.

Balika Samridhi Yojana

183. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports that Government are not releasing requisite funds to the State Governments under the Balika Samridhi Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame by which the outstanding amount is likely to be released, State-wise;

(c) the total amount released by Government under the 'Post Birth Grant for Girl Child' during each of the two years and there after in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the funds proposed to be released under this scheme during 2005-06 in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has proposed in the beginning of current financial year, to transfer Balika Samridhi Yojana to the States/UTs. Therefore, no funds have been earmarked for the scheme for 2005-06.

(c) During the year 2003-04 no amount was released. However, 2004-05 total amount of Rs. 3975.08 lakhs were released out of which an amount of Rs. 500.21 lakhs was released to Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No funds are proposed for release during 2005-06.

Children Commissions in States

184. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had asked the State Governments to set up Children Commissions on the pattern of National Children Commission proposed to be set up soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to strengthen the Integrated Child Development Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government has recently notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20th January, 2006 as Act No. 4 of 2006. The Act envisages setting up a National Commission at the National level and the State Commissions at